

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of maintaining a temperature in a refrigerated compartment comprising the steps of:
 - a) cooling the refrigerated compartment;
 - b) providing a signal to stop step a) for a predetermined amount of time; and
 - c) cooling the refrigerated compartment after the predetermined amount of time.
2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
compressing a refrigerant to a high pressure;
cooling the refrigerant;
expanding the refrigerant to a low pressure; and
heating the refrigerant, and the step of heating the refrigerant includes accepting heat from a fluid medium to cool the refrigerated compartment.
3. The method as recited in claim 2 wherein the step of heating comprises employing a first evaporator and a second evaporator.
4. The method as recited in claim 3 further including the step of operating the first evaporator and the second evaporator independently.
5. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of providing the signal comprises pressing a button.
6. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the predetermined amount of time is between 5 minutes and 120 minutes.
7. The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the predetermined amount of time is between 15 minutes and 30 minutes.

8. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the predetermined amount of time is between 8 hours and 48 hours.
9. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the refrigerated compartment is one of a display case and a service cabinet.
10. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the refrigerated compartment is employed with medical and scientific applications.
11. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a second signal to begin cooling the refrigerated compartment before the predetermined time.
12. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the method is monitored remotely.
13. The method as recited in claim 1 further including the steps of sensing the temperature in the refrigerated compartment and providing a second signal to stop the step of cooling after step c), and the step of providing a second signal occurs when the step of sensing detects that the temperature in the refrigerated compartment exceeds a threshold value.
14. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the step of providing a second signal occurs after a threshold amount of time.

15. A system for maintaining a temperature in a refrigerated compartment comprising:
- a controller to regulate the temperature in the refrigerated compartment; and
 - an evaporator to cool the refrigerated compartment, and the evaporator stops cooling the refrigerated compartment for a predetermined amount of time in response to a signal.
16. The system as recited in claim 15 further comprising:
- a compressor to a refrigerant to a high pressure;
 - a condenser for cooling the refrigerant; and
 - an expansion device to expand the refrigerant to a low pressure.
17. The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the evaporator heats a refrigerant by accepting heat from a fluid medium, and the fluid medium cools the refrigerated compartment.
18. The system as recited in claim 15 further comprising a button to generate the signal.
19. The system as recited in claim 15 further comprising more than one button to generate the signal.
20. The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the predetermined amount of time is between 15 minutes and 30 minutes.
21. The system as recited in claim 15 further including a temperature sensor to detect the temperature in the refrigerated compartment, and wherein the evaporator stops cooling the refrigerated compartment in response to a second signal after the predetermined time if the temperature sensor detects that the temperature is above a threshold temperature.

22. The system as recited in claim 15 further including second evaporator.